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Spalding
Urban District Council

REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

to the

Spalding Urban District

for the

YEAR 1937

"FREE PRESS" CO. LTD., SPALDING

Public Health Officers

of the

Spalding Urban District Council

Medical Officer of Health:

J. R. MUNRO, M.D.

Public Health Officer:

L. A. GORNALL, F.I.A.A.S., M.R.S.I.

Meat Inspector:

S. A. SHARMAN

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1937

To the Chairman and Councillors of the Spalding Urban District Council.

I beg to hand you my Report for 1937.

Area (in acres	7,825
Population (estimated)	13,320
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1937) ...	4,198
Rateable Value	£68,215
Sum represented by a Penny Rate ...	£254 8s. 2d.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births.

		Total	M.	F.
(1)	Legitimate ...	200	99	101
(2)	Illegitimate ...	20	10	10

Birth Rate: 16.5 per 1,000 Population.
Birth Rate for England and Wales: 14.9.

Still Births.

		Total	M.	F.
(1)	Legitimate ...	9	7	2
(2)	Illegitimate ...	0	—	—

Rate per 1,000 Total Births: 39.

Deaths.

Total	M.	F.
160	97	63

Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population: 12
Death Rate for England and Wales 12.4

Deaths from Puerperal Causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List).

Deaths.		Rate per 1,000 total (live and still births).
No. 29	Puerperal Sepsis	0
No. 30	Other puerperal causes	0
	Total	0

Death Rate of Infants under One Year of Age.

All Infants per 1,000 Live Births	40.9
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births ...	40
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births ...	0

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	36
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	1
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	0
Deaths from Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age) ...	0

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

1.—Public Health Officers of the Authority.

1. Medical Officer of Health (part time).
2. Sanitary Inspector and Public Health Officer (whole time).
3. Meat Inspector (part time).

2.—Other Services.

(*a*) Laboratory facilities. There is no change to report.

(*b*) Ambulance facilities. The Ambulance Service is highly efficient and is helped greatly by the voluntary service of the St. Johns Ambulance Brigade.

Cases of Infectious Disease are removed by the Fever Hospital Ambulance.

(*c*) There have been no changes in the other services.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water.—The supply of water in the area is ample in quantity and excellent in purity. Samples have been taken during the year and the certificate of analysis is shown hereunder. The Water Undertaking is now supplying a population of 55,800. Extension of the 3″ main on the Cley Hall Estate has been carried out during the year.

Certificate of Analysis of Water.
No. 85780 00

Sample received from the Spalding U.D.C. per J. Demain Esq., Engineer and Manager, Gas and Water Departments.

Mark or Seal. " Ex 13″ Bore," Pumping Station, Manning Road, Bourne. 11 a.m., 21st December, 1937.

(The chemical results are stated in parts per 100,000 which may be altered to grains per gallon by multiplying by 0.7).

Total Solids in solution	46.5
Ammonia, Free and Saline	.006
Ammonia, Albuminoid	.001
Chlorine in Chlorides	2.15
Nitrogen as Nitrates	Nil
Nitrites	Nil
Oxygen absorbed from Permanganate	.023
Hardness, total	29.4
Hardness, permanent	10.85
Bacteria, per c.c., on agar at 37° C.	Nil
Bacillus, present in	
Bacillus, absent in	100 c.c.

Physical characters—bright and clear. Colour—Nil.

Remarks.—This is an excellent water both chemically and bacteriologically, being practically sterile. The water is free from trace of pollution and quite suitable for drinking purposes.

(Signed) W. Lincolne Sutton.

Drainage and Sewerage. — The sewerage system continues to be efficient and numerous properties have been connected during the year. Extensions have been carried out at Cley Hall Estate, Edward Road, and a scheme prepared for Spalding Common.

Closet Accommodation.—Conversion from pail closets to the water carriage system is being carried out, but there still remains the question of the complete abolition of privy vaults. On account of the high subsoil water level of the district these are a potential danger and their conversion is recommended. The number of sanitary pans existing is 56.

Public Cleansing.—The provision of proper sanitary dustbins has been insisted upon during the year and 169 bins have been provided after the receipt of notice. A considerable number of owners of property have provided proper bins voluntarily.

Slaughter Houses, Meat and other Foods.—A regular inspection of slaughter houses has been made, and the necessary notices regarding lime washing, removal of offals, etc., have been complied with. During the year the following meat has been destroyed:

4 Carcases of Beef.

4 Pigs.

1 Sheep.

1 Fore quarter of Beef.

116 stone Beef.

Swimming Bath and Pool. — Frequent inspections of a privately owned swimming pool have been carried out and the water analysed and bacteriologically examined at regular intervals. Everything was found to be satisfactory.

New Houses. — During the year plans were approved for 162 houses. This figure includes 88 Council houses.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.—Council houses infested with bed bugs are treated free of cost to the occupier. Privately owned houses so infested are treated upon request and a charge made. The following is a summary of cases dealt with during the year.

Council houses	6
Other houses	3

The whole of the Casual Wards at the Poor Law Institution were disinfected during the year.

The method employed is spraying with Zaldecide, bedding, etc., is steam disinfected.

Every house is examined prior to removal from slum clearance houses to new Council houses and disinfestation carried out as previously described free of charge. Disinfestation work is carried out by direct labour.

Supervision or education of tenants to prevent infestation or reinfestation after cleansing is done by the officer of the Council making the examination prior to disinfestation and is continued in the routine duties of the Housing Manager.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

1.—Inspection of Dwelling Houses During the Year.

(1)	(*a*)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	404
	(*b*)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	591
(2)	(*a*)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	139
	(*b*)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	203
(3)		Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	5
(4)		Number of dwelling houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head)	41

2.—Remedy of Defects During the Year without service of Formal Notice.

Number of dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority of their Officers 25

3.—Action under Statutory Powers During the Year.

A.—Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs 19

(2) Number of houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices.

(*a*) By owners 17

(*b*) By Local Authority in default of owners ... none

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notice has been served requiring defects to be remedied 169

(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:

(*a*) By owners 160

(*b*) By Local Authority on default of owners ... 9

C.—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 85

(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders 53

D.—Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were made none

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... ... none

Housing Act, 1936, Part IV., Overcrowding.

Number of houses overcrowded at end of year	37
Number of families dwelling therein	39
Number of persons dwelling therein	290
Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	4
Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	23
Number of persons concerned in such cases	150
Dwelling houses which have again become overcrowded after the local authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	none

88 Council Houses are being erected, some of which are allocated for the abatement of overcrowding.

GENERAL HEALTH OF THE DISTRICT.

Table of Notifiable Diseases during the year 1937.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases sent to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Smallpox	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	43	39	1
Diphtheria	3	3	0
Enteric Fever	0	0	0
Puerperal Fever	0	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	0	0
Pneumonia	10	0	3
Erysipelas	4	2	0
Encephalitis Lethargia	2	0	2
Measles	0	4	1
Other Cases	—	6	—

During the year 1937 54 patients have been admitted to the Holland Isolation Hospital, Boston. There were two deaths.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

Five cases were notified during the year. All were of a mild type and recovered without any loss of vision.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1937.

Age Periods.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1 ..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
5 ..	1	..	2	2	..	..	..	..
15 ..	..	1	3	..	..	2	..	..
25 ..	2	1	..	..	1	..	..	..
35 ..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
45 ..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
55 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	...
65 and upwards	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals	4	3	5	3	1	3	0	0

An examination of the Causes of Death reveals the fact that some form of Cancer takes a heavy toll. This would be more disquieting if the cases occurred before or in the prime of life. A number of them seem to be concomitant of old age, and more associated with decay than the actual cause of death. Of the other main causes Senility of course always, and Cerebral hæmorrhage often, occur in old people.

I consider that the general health of the town is good. We come in for epidemics along with the population as a whole, but I think rather less than others. The mildness of some of the epidemic diseases is their greatest danger because it makes people careless in isolating patients and contacts until the danger of handing it on is past. It is well-known that the contact of a mild case may develop an illness of a virulent and even fatal type.

I cannot close my report without acknowledging my own and the town's indebtedness to Mr. Gornall, the Public Health Officer, for his work in safeguarding the Health of the community. The part of this report dealing with the Sanitary Circumstances of the Area and the Housing Statistics has been compiled by him, a guarantee of its accuracy.

I beg to remain,

Your Obedient Servant,

J. R. MUNRO, M.D.,

Medical Officer of Health.

Causes of Death during Year 1937.

Causes of Death.	Male.	Female.
All Causes	97	63
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers		
Measles	1	0
Scarlet Fever	0	1
Whooping Cough		
Diphtheria		
Influenza	3	4
Encephalitis Lethargica	0	2
Cerebro-spinal Fever		
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	1	4
Other Tubercular Diseases		
Syphilis		
General Paralysis of the Insane, Tabes Dorsalis		
Cancer, malignant disease	22	14
Diabetes	5	0
Cerebral Hæmorrhage, &c.	12	2
Heart Disease	12	11
Aneurysm	1	0
Other Circulatory Diseases	3	2
Bronchitis	1	0
Pneumonia (all forms)	3	0
Other Respiratory Diseases		
Peptic Ulcer	1	0
Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years)		
Appendicitis	0	2
Cirrhosis of Liver	2	0
Other Diseases of Liver, &c.		
Other Digestive Diseases	0	1
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	4	1
Puerperal Sepsis		
Other Puerperal Causes		
Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Malformations, &c.	2	5
Senility	10	10
Suicide	1	2
Other Violence	6	0
Other Defined Diseases	6	2
Causes Ill-defined or Unknown	1	0
Special Causes (included above).		
Small-pox		
Poliomyelitis		
Polioencephalitis		
Death of Infants under 1 year — Total		
Death of Infants under 1 year — Legitimate		
Death of Infants under 1 year — Illegitimate		
Live Births — Total		
Live Births — Legitimate		
Live Births — Illegitimate		
Stillbirths — Total		
Stillbirths — Legitimate		
Stillbirths — Illegitimate		
POPULATION	13320	